get a boost. The Government has not chalked out any strategy on how to fight inflation. Only the Finance Minister is there to say, 'I am optimistic; the prices will come down, and there is nothing abnormal in it'. I take serious objection not only to the way he has spoken but also to the absence of any Government strategy. Madam, what is joy for the Finance Minister is a tear for the nation. He was very cheerful because there has been an augmentation in the foreign exchange reserves. According to the leading economists of the country, there has been an inflow of foreign exchange. And this foreign money did not lead to the augmenting of production. On the other hand, this increase in the foreign exchange supply had its expansionary impact on the money supply. And this foreign exchange reserve which is totally unproductive is one of the basic factors for this galloping price rise which is taking place in the country.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Shri V. Narayanasamy.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Therefore, this is not a question of concern only. This is a question of the Government chalking out an effective strategy for tackling the situation. And this is the situation where I condemn totally the lackadaisical attitude and the way in which the Finance Minister has given a clean chit to the inflation in the country ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN (Tamil Nadu) : Are we dicussing the economic policy during the Zero Hour ?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Can we discuss the economic policy during the Zero Hour?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Narayanasamy, you please make your Special Mention.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra) : There can be a discussion. But this cannot be raised during the Zero Hour.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN (Tamil Nadu) : Madam ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I will call you, according to the list.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES (Goa) : That matter should not be permitted for Zero Hour. We also want to discuss it and have a reply ... (*Interruptions*)

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (West Bengal) : The matter is important. There should be an half-an-hour discussion. Let there be a full discussion.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : We will look into it. We will take note of your point and we will discuss it in the Business Advisory Committee ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. G. SWELL (Meghalaya) : I want to say one sentence. If this inflation is a cyclic phenomenon as the Finance Minister contends, then I would like to know why is the frantic measure of the Government in allowing the import, free of duty, of sugar and oil into the country. In what way that is going to help us in solving the problem of inflation ?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Shri V. Narayanasamy.

Foul play suspected in the death of many Indians employed in the Gulf Countries

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry) : With a heavy heart, I would like to raise a very important matter concerning Indians who have gone to the Gulf countries. Madam, within a period of nine months, more than 180 dead bodies have reached the southern parts of India, specially in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. It is a known fact that more than two million Indian people are working in the Gulf countries. They go to the Gulf countries for employment promised to them by their employers. What has happened is, within a period of nine months, in the year 1993, at the Trivandrum airport and also Madras airport, more than 180 dead bodies have been received by their relatives. These deaths have aroused a suspicion for the simple reason that even after a period of 60 days, the relatives of these dead persons were not informed of the death in India. Not only that. The Labour Attaches in our Embassies in the Gulf countries are also not taking care of our people who are employed in those countries. It is a very serious matter.

Madam, Indians, specially from the southern parts of the country, go there for employment and their dead bodies are received here. There is no security for them in those countries. The Ministry of External Affairs and also our Embassies are least bothered about our people who go there seeking employment. I want the Minister of External Affairs to come to this House and give a statement because an alarming situation has been created and the people are in panic in the southern States of the country. There is no security for our people working in the Gulf countries. Therefore, I want the hon. Minister of External Affairs to come to the House and make a statement to clarify the position. Even in the death certificates that are issued, the reason for the death is given either as due to accident or due

to some unknown disease which creates a further suspicion in the minds of the people. I, therefore, want the Minister of External Affairs to clarify the position by giving a statement in this House.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN (Kerala) : I associate myself with what my friend has just said. I have the experience of having intervened in several cases which I brought to the notice of the Ministry of External Affairs. But no proper action has been taken. Therefore, I request the Government to come out with a statement before this House regarding our Indians who are working in those countries and also earning valuable foreign exchange for the country. They should be given full protection by our Government and this matter should be taken seriously by the Government.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES (Goa) : The Government is silent on this issue and I would request the Government to see, when these dead bodies come to the Indian soil, whether criminal cases can be filed against the foreign nationals, because we cannot allow this situation to go on like this.

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL (Madhya Pradesh) : I would like to associate myself with what my friend Mr. Narayanasamy said regarding the problems faced by the workers from Kerala and Tamil Nadu who are employed in desert areas. The way they have been treated or the casual way their interests are ignored by the Government, is a very serious matter which should be taken note of.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I feel it is a serious matter. The Leader of the House is here. More than two million Indian people are working abroad, in the Gulf countries. I think the Ministry of External Affairs should find out the details whether these deaths were natural or, as Mr. Narayanasamy feels, there is some foul play. We should find out because there should be no fear in the minds of our people that our Indian people working in the Gulf countries are being subjected to such treatment.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : I would request the External Affairs Minister to find out the facts and give a statement in the House.

Extending ban on LTTE for another two years

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN (Tamil Nadu) : Thank you for giving me the opportunity to raise this matter.

Madam, the ban on the LTTE by the Government of India under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (Act 37 of 1967) by way of a Notification was declared on 14th May, 1992, in pursuance of the request of the Tamil Nadu Government. This ban expires on May 14, 1994, that is, within 25 days.

In view of the all-India ramification of the LTTE and their nexus with other militant outfits in many other States of our country,...such as Kashmir, Punjab, Assam and Andhra Pradesh, it is necessary for the Central Government to extend the ban on its activities all over India for a further period of two years so as to safeguard the unity, the integrity and the sovereignty of our country which they challenged by the assassination of our beloved leader, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister of India, on the Tamil Nadu soil.

The Tamil Nadu Government had already sent a report to the Home Ministry and had requested as far back as 28th January, 1994, with necessary supporting material to extend the ban on the L.T.T.E. The Tamil Nadu Government had also replied, on three occasions, to the letters received from the Home Ministry. The Inspector-General of Police of the Tamil Nadu Special Investigating Team had also met the Home Ministry officials twice and had helped in the drafting of the note for the Cabinet. Therefore, the matter is pending with the Government of India for immediate action.

Madam, the L.T.T.E. activities have not only ramifications in many States within the country, but it has also extended its activities to many places abroad, such as London, Paris, Geneva, Bonn, Toronto, etc., by way of having its offices there. Hence, concerted action is necessary by the Government of India to curtail its activities.

The ban has to be extended by the Central Government and not by the State Government. The Criminal Amendment Act, 1908, of Tamil Nadu, as amended in 1950, wherein the term 'unlawful assembly' had been defined, had already been struck down by the Madras High Court and the Supreme Court as *ultra vires* of article 19 of the Constitution. The Tamil Nadu Government has no other Act, at present, to ban the L.T.T.E. Even if we enact a new law, it would be insufficient to control the L.T.T.E., since they would operate from Karaikal and Pondicherry, besides other nearby places such as Chittor in Andhra Pradesh, and Bangalore in Karnataka. Therefore, the advice of the Home Minister at Madras recently that the Tamil Nadu Government can ban the L.T.T.E. is untenable.

Madam, the Tamil Nadu Assembly has passed a Resolution yesterday, on 20th April, 1994, calling for extending the ban on the L.T.T.E. by the Central Government before 11th May, 1994. I am sorry that in spite of the repeated requests of the Tamil Nadu Government and by our